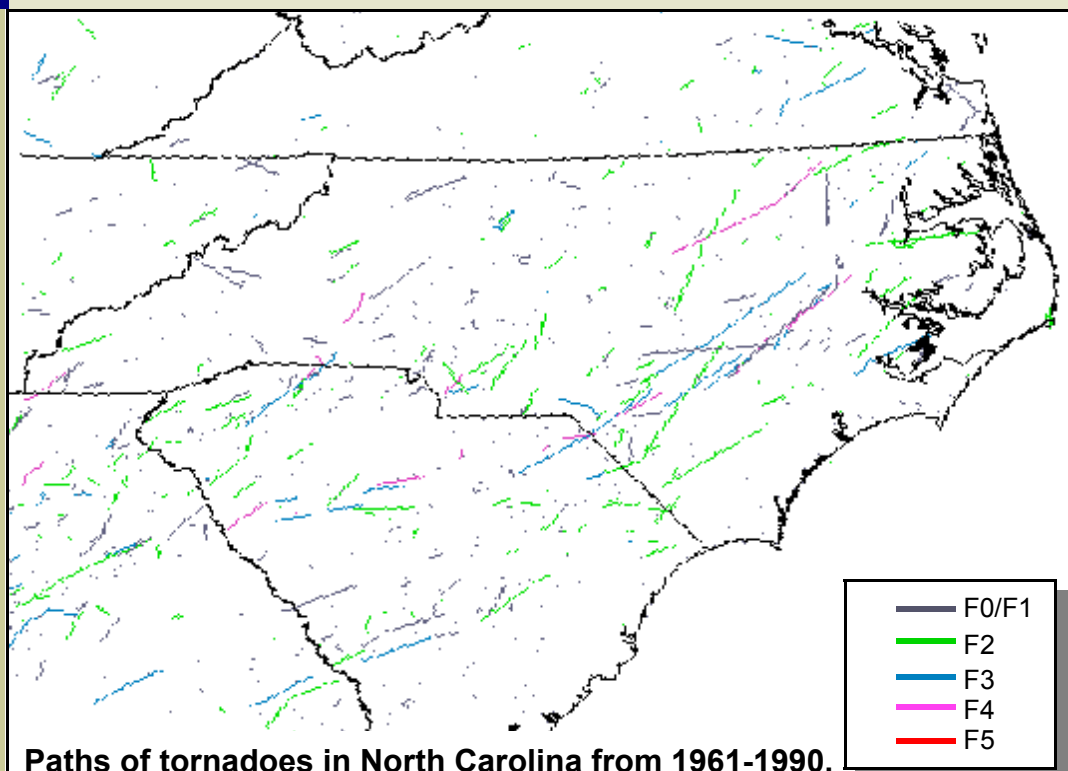




Tornadoes of North Carolina

Tornado Facts

- The U.S. averages about 1,200 tornadoes each year, but only about 20 of those are 'killer' tornadoes, claiming a total of about 60 lives each year.
- Each year tornadoes kill about 60 people in the U.S., but they injure about 20 times as many people.
- The Fujita scale, which ranks tornadoes based on the amount of damage produced by their winds, was developed by Dr. Ted Fujita and Allen Pearson of the University of Chicago in 1971.
- Only a small percentage of tornadoes that occur each year are classified as F5 on the Fujita scale, with winds ranging from 261-318 mph. No tornado is believed to have ever exceeded the F5 category.
- Tornadoes in the United States have an average path length of about 5 miles and an average width of 160-170 yards.
- Most tornadoes rotate counterclockwise. However, about 1 in 100 will rotate clockwise.
- Tornadoes have been known to occur on every continent except Antarctica.
- Most tornadoes strike between 5 pm and 6 pm.



The Fujita Scale (F-Scale) of Tornado Intensity

	Wind speed	Damage		Wind Speed	Damage
F0	40-72 mph	light	F3	158-206 mph	severe
F1	73-112 mph	moderate	F4	207-260 mph	devastating
F2	113-157 mph	considerable	F5	261-318 mph	incredible

North Carolina Tornado Statistics

Average per year: 16

Average per 10,000 sq. miles: 3.26

Most in One Year: 66 in 1998

Average Tornado Deaths per year: 2

Average Tornado Injuries per year: 39

Deadliest Tornado: February 19, 1884, a tornado in Anson and Richmond Counties killed 23 people.